

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

ROKOSCH

GRANDSTAFF

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT

DRISCOLL

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....October 3, 2007

Members Present.....Commissioner Jim Rokosch,
Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Alan
Thompson

Minutes: Beth Perkins

Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll attended a State Sanitarian Conference in Billings.

The Board met for a discussion regarding the issue of dispatching ambulances within the jurisdiction of the Three Mile area. Present were Three Mile Fire Chief Russ Giese, Assistant Fire Chief, 9-1-1 Director Joanna Hamilton and Civil Counsel Alex Beal. John Schmiedeke, Carol Holman, Josh Wagner, Donna Rennaker, Jane Ellis and R.C. Richardson were also in attendance.

It was noted the issue that brought forth this meeting is the dispatching of ambulance services within the Fire District of Three Mile which Three Mile is not in favor of.

Russ Giese gave a proposal to the Board regarding the Fire District providing their own ambulance service. He stated there has been a change of policy within the 9-1-1. Commissioner Rokosch stated there is a need for a letter of understanding between the parties if that were to occur.

Alex stated the new Montana Codes addresses the need for the paramedics to be from the Fire District if they are dispatched. He stated it is basically done in the same manner that a fire truck is dispatched.

Commissioner Chilcott questioned the Commissioner's authority in regard to this type of decision, particularly when Three Mile Fire District has their elected officials. Alex replied he is not sure if the Commissioners have the authority to override Three Mile's request, nor is he sure Three Mile has the authority to make this request when ambulance service has been a private issue (ownership). Alex stated they can not pick and choose the service. From a liability standpoint of medical services, he stated it should be whoever can arrive and provide service first is the best solution for the patient.

Commissioner Grandstaff questioned the level of staffing of Three Mile compared to Stevensville. Russ replied it varies. Discussion included the staffing of the Stevensville Ambulance and response times.

Commissioner Rokosch stated the focus needs to be how we can provide the best level of service and to keep in mind the authority each entity has as established by legislature.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked about the letter submitted from the 9-1-1 Director to Three Mile Fire District. There was a question of ambulance service in Three Mile when the letter was issued. Joanna replied at the time she drafted the letter, she was not informed there was ambulance transport service in Three Mile.

Commissioner Chilcott explained the liability issues for different case scenarios.

Commissioner Rokosch stated there is a definite lack of communication between the parties present today. He stated he was disappointed this has to be pointed out by the Commissioners.

Jane Ellis stated the Commissioners have an opportunity to fix the communication problem. She felt it would be productive to have a countywide EMS committee. Commissioner Chilcott agreed but added the Commissioners do not have jurisdiction over the Three Mile Fire District. Russ stated they do have public board meetings and would welcome anyone attend and voice their opinion.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated she would like to address Jane's suggestion and asked Alex for his legal opinion. Alex advised the Commissioners that they not direct 9-1-1 in any decisions. He also advised 9-1-1 to comply with Three Mile's request and then advised Three Mile to revise the existing Resolution to date.

Joanna stated there are 9-1-1 Advisory meetings and the public is more than welcome to attend.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked the Commissioners to address Jane's request. Every one agreed to the idea of a countywide EMS committee. Russ suggested Jane be chairman. Jane requested a County Commissioner be on this committee. Commissioner Grandstaff agreed to participate. Commissioner Rokosch requested they utilize an existing forum or committee and not create a new one. Every one agreed.

In other business the Board held a closed door meeting invoking the Montana Code for discussion on a personnel issue.

The Board met with Wayne Kilpatrick for an update on the land exchange between CB Ranch and the Forest Service. Wayne presented a map to the Board in order to explain the proposed land exchange. The Land Board approved a trade for a section of State land in the middle of the CB Ranch for two sections of forest land so it would line up with the existing parcels. Wayne demonstrated where the new property lines will exist by way of map. Wayne stated the state portion of this trade will be completed within the month, but the federal portion could take up to a year to complete.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked if re-planting has been done. Wayne replied yes however, the logging industry has logged over the top of the saplings. The Board thanked Wayne for the update.